(d) The total outlay of the project is Rs. 2485.52 lakhs with DBT's contribution Rs. 1798.08 lakhs and Industry's contribution Rs. 687.44 lakhs.

(e) The project is expected to be completed in 2010.

Slow research work for invention of new medicines

†2623. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the research work for invention of new medicines is not advancing at the required pace in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount allocated by Government for undertaking research-work for invention of new medicines during the last three years; and

(d) the amount utilized for this purpose during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government has launched a programme specially for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research in DST for developing new molecules/drugs in all systems of medicines. In addition drug research is being undertaken both by public and private R&D institutions for developing medicines.

(c) and (d) The amount allocated for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme in DST for the year 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 is Rs. 115.00 crores, Rs. 60.00 crores, Rs. 118.00 crores respectively. The utilization of funds is Rs. 115.50 crores, Rs. 60.00 crores and Rs. 118.00 crores for the respective years.

High Cost of advanced technology

2624. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in India cost of advanced technology has become prohibitive;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to bring down these costs and to set up a forward looking agenda; and

(c) whether Government has made any efforts to find out the reasons for such increase in the costs?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. Advanced technologies are not available off the shelf. They used to be developed by launching missions and funding projects within India. Successful outcomes reduce the cost of such technologies. However, in the case of certain technologies which are denied to Indian companies or entities on account of sanctions, such acquisitions are not possible.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi .